by such devices as a pool, a hummock of earth, a pagoda, charms or the picture of a dragon.

Feng shui has been especially used in determining the locations for interments. Stories abound of families which have been ruined because the grave of an ancestor had an unfavorable *feng shut* and of others which have prospered because of a fortunate location of ancestral remains. Whole cities, too, are said to have had their fortunes improved by the construction of a pagoda on expert advice, and a neighborhood to have been badly damaged by some high building or flag-pole, such as Westerners have been wont to erect.

DIVINATION AND FORTUNE-TELLING

It is probably also debatable whether such activities as divination, fortune-telling, and the discovery of lucky and unlucky days should be grouped under religion. Here, again, however, whatever their relations, they have long been prominent in Chinese life and, although somewhat shaken by the contacts with the West, remain so.

Each individual is supposed to have his fate in part determined by the year, month, day, and hour, or simply the year, month> and day, on which he was born. Each of these is indicated by a certain combination of one of the ten "heavenly stems" and the twelve "earthly branches." The result is either eight or six characters which must be consulted by the fortune-teller in determining such matters as betrothals. There are lucky and unlucky days for marriages and funerals, for commencing building operations, or for beginning a journey. Among the many factors which may be taken into consideration in determining whether and when to enter upon a particular course of action are the five elements, the animals supposed to be identified with the twelve

"earthly branches," and combinations of the two, the calendar with its lucky and unlucky days (formerly published by imperial authority), the *pa kua* (eight trigrams) which form the basis of the 7 *Ching* and which from prehistoric times have been utilized by diviners, and the 7 *Ching* itself. There were or are many ways of fortune-telling—among them the inspection of the physiognomy, the choice of a slip of paper by a bird and the interpretation of the picture or characters on the slip by the soothsayer, and the casting of lots bv any one of several devices.